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MR. SPEAKER :—" I am now going to put the original motion to the vote of the House."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, I would like to have clarification on this point. The resolution before the House is, ' That the food situation in the State be taken into consideration '. That being the case, I don't think any vote is necessary on the resolution, as it stands in the present form."

MR. SPEAKER :—" All motions must be put to the vote of the House. That is the procedure to be followed. The question is—

' That the food situation in the State be taken into consideration. ' "

The motion was carried.

IV.—MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL.

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have to announce to the House that I have received the following message, dated the 11th December 1952, from the Hon. the Chairman, Madras Legislative Council :—

' I transmit a copy of the Madras Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Bill, 1952 (L.A. Bill No. 21 of 1952), as agreed to by the Council without any recommendation and signed by me.' "

V.—STATEMENT *RE* THE KRISHNA ANICUT ENQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT.

MR. SPEAKER :—" Regarding the Krishna Anicut Enquiry Committee's report, the Hon. Minister for Public Works will make a statement and the debate on the same will be held in the next sitting."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, I think the idea is that the motion on the situation created by the cyclone is to be taken up first."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The Hon. Minister for Public Works will now make a statement on the Krishna Anicut Enquiry Committee Report and it will be discussed in the next sitting of the House."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, we are very anxious that the matter should be gone into even now. That is what we feel after reading the report and also the appendices, which I have had the advantage of looking into yesterday and to-day. I would rather like that the debate should go on to-day unless everybody agrees that it should be postponed."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Yes, that is the agreement."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Then in that case it seems that unfortunately I am the only man to disagree on this point."

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MR. SPEAKER :—" Next time we will have a full-dress debate."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" I wish to make my position clear with regard to this matter. If the Hon. Public Works Minister makes a full statement with regard to all the points raised in the report and if the Hon. Leader of the House allows a full day's debate on the same at the next sitting, possibly we can agree. Otherwise, I would rather insist that the discussion on the report be taken up even to-day."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" With regard to the hon. Member's suggestion that a full day should be allotted for this purpose, I will talk the matter with him later and try to allot whatever time may be necessary."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" Sir, may I know when we are likely to meet again?"

MR. SPEAKER :—" We are going to adjourn *sine die* to-day. The House will probably meet some time by the end of January or the beginning of February."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I think we may meet by the third week of January, or the end of January. I am sorry I am not in a position to give the exact date now."

SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO :—" అధ్యక్షా, నిన్న, కృష్ణానది ఆనకట్ట వ్యవహారంమీద debate ఉంటుందని వాగ్దానం చేశారు. ఈ రోజున దానిని లేకుండా చేస్తున్నారు. ఇది చాలా తీవ్రమైన సమస్య కాబట్టి, యీరోజున రాత్రి 8 ఘంటలు అయినను debate ఉండాలని, నేను సూచన చేస్తున్నాను."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have consulted the leader of the hon. Member's Party and he himself has agreed that the matter may be discussed at the next sitting. So I am not going to allow any debate on this matter."

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Sir, I beg to move the motion that stands in my name . . ."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I don't think it is necessary to move the motion. I think it is enough if the Hon. Minister makes a statement."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Whether the Hon. Minister moves the motion or makes a statement, it is immaterial. He can move the motion if he wants and we can have the discussion at the next sitting."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" The Hon. Minister may move the motion according to the original programme and we may have the discussion on the subject at the next sitting."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have no objection. The Hon. Minister may move the motion if he wants and the discussion may take place at the next sitting."

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4-30 p.m. * THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a statement with regard to the report made by the Krishna Anicut Enquiry Committee. It would be necessary for me to mention the circumstances in which the Government appointed the Committee for going into the question of the damage caused to the Krishna Anicut and also as to who, if any, were responsible for the breach that occurred. While constituting the Committee, the Government mentioned in the terms of reference that it might also go into the question whether the shutters that were there were being operated, and if they were not being properly operated, whether anyone was responsible for the defective operation of the shutters. To have a clear picture of the damage, Sir, I would like to submit that we should go back to the month of May 1952.

" The House will probably remember that there were unprecedented floods in the month of May 1952. The river Krishna rose unexpectedly to an unprecedented height. Before the floods, shutters were kept in an erect position because some repairs had to be carried out to them. The shutters were being painted on the 22nd May 1952. Suddenly the river began to rise and by the 25th of May, the rise was about 15 feet over the crest of the anicut, that is, nine feet over the shutters. It was not possible for the shutters to be tripped down and they were tripped down only by about 31st May 1952. The House will, therefore, note that for over a period of nearly nine days, shutters were not tripped down. The water which flowed over the shutters created some damage to the first apron. It was found on examination that about eleven scours had been created over the first apron and an estimate had also been sanctioned by the Superintending Engineer, the late Mr. Vepa Krishnamurthi, for a sum of nearly 82,000 rupees to carry out repairs. The damage consisted not only in scours being formed in the first apron but some damage to the retention wall also. The repairs were completed by about the 25th June 1952. I may mention at this stage that so far as the damage to the first apron is concerned and also the damage to the retention wall, no information was given to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. The damage was noticed by the Superintending Engineer and repairs were straightaway sanctioned by him and executed. I may also point out that these repairs could not be carried out as satisfactorily as one could in an ordinary season. In the month of June, work had to be suspended or had to be disturbed twice on account of the low floods in the river. It was feared that some floods would come in the month of June itself. The work had to be done in a hurry and by the 25th of June 1952, the repairs were completed. A report was sent to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation that all damages had been repaired by the 25th June. It should also be remembered by hon. Members that the shutters which were in existence were about six feet high. At the place where the fourth set of shutters were functioning, I would like to submit it was a very deep bed of the river originally. It is said that the depth of the river was filled by sand and the level was brought up. Why I am

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particularly referring to this point is, it is that particular place where the breach had occurred. Once in 1893, when the crest of the anicut was raised from three feet to six feet, it was said that there was a crack in the body wall and it was also mentioned that there was some damage to the anicut. The Enquiry Committee which was expected to go into the question has found that there is no specific evidence to show where the damage has occurred to the anicut but that it may be surmised, however, that this damage or this breach had occurred at that particular place where the fourth shutters were situated. The shutters that were in operation in 1893 were about 3 feet in height and the ayacut that was expected to be irrigated was originally 5·80 lakhs of acres. But now the ayacut irrigated is about 11 lakhs of acres. The demand for more and more water from the ryots led the authorities to think of devices by which more water could be diverted for irrigating the lands. With that object in view, the six feet shutters were installed somewhere between the years 1923 and 1925. After the installation of these six feet shutters, it has been a regular feature that damage is occurring to the anicut, and to the four aprons that were meant to protect the anicut. A number of instances have been given by the Committee wherein, it has shown that damage has occurred after the year 1925 very often. The Committee surmises that for this damage the type of shutters which have been installed and which are now functioning is largely responsible. Of course the Committee has suggested remedies as to how the thing can be got over. I am only mentioning to the House that just behind the fourth shutters, there has been some damage for some time. Where this breach occurred, there was a scour and actually the scour was repaired in June. What happened was that between the 25th June after the repairs had been effected and the date of the breach of the anicut which is surmised to have occurred between the 6th and the 8th of September there had been no periodical inspection of the anicut by the inspecting officers. And, therefore, the scour which is mentioned as the tenth scour in the Report developed and affected the anicut. The driver of the plough and other people found that there was some trouble with the plough and so were not able to move the plough on the 3rd or 4th of September. It is said by the Committee that if the inspecting officers had taken particular care to see whether any damage had occurred they would certainly have noticed that this breach between the 6th and the 8th of September was the result of a scour which had been repaired in June. They could have also taken action in time and the whole tragedy could have been avoided. The officers not having inspected this, a trouble developed. The plough could not be moved either on the 3rd or the 4th September 4–40 p.m. and the inspecting officers found on the 6th September that the breach had occurred where the fourth set of shutters was functioning. When the breach occurred the shutters were washed away. On the ninth September when the Superintending Engineer wanted to have the breach repaired by throwing some stones and other things in the breach, four officers of the P.W.D. lost their lives.

I submit the Government have already expressed their deep sense of sorrow at the loss of these four officers while discharging their duty.

" Subsequently the breach has been closed by putting in stones and other things. On the 16th September a Committee was constituted with Mr. Venkatakrishna Ayyar, then retired Chief Engineer as Chairman with Sri Raghavan, Member, Board of Revenue and Sri Venkatachari, Chief Engineer (Irrigation), as Members of the Committee. The Committee examined witnesses both official and non-official and have also recorded evidence. A number of non-official witnesses gave evidence to the effect that the anicut was a very old one and they also said that the Madras Government provided sufficient funds for the annual repairs. When the anicut was constructed, they said, the life was fixed at hundred years. It was constructed in the year 1852. We are now in the year 1952. The life of the anicut is over. We ought therefore to construct a new anicut. Various other versions have also been put forward. All these questions were thoroughly gone into by the Committee. The Committee has come to the conclusion that there was no neglect on the part of the Government. Whatever money was required for the repairs of the anicut was provided. Every year a lakh of rupees have been provided for the repairs to the anicut. The Committee has therefore concluded that there was no reason to think that the money provided by the Government for the repairs to the anicut was inadequate. The Committee has also come to the conclusion that the repairs done to the anicut in the month of June 1952 could not be deemed to be insufficient because though there was a flood and though till about the 9th September the water was flowing over the anicut and the repaired portion, the repaired portion stood up very well.

" As regards the responsibility of the officers, the Committee has come to the conclusion that on account of the allocation of the duties among several officers, they could not understand the position properly and therefore could not fix the responsibility for the damage that occurred in the month of May. Subsequently, with regard to the breach that occurred between 6th and 8th September, the Committee has some harsh words to say about those officers responsible, the Anicut Superintendent, Junior Superintendent, the Executive Engineer and the Superintending Engineer. They have also said that it could not be said that the breach occurred on account of the negligence of the officers but it might have been due to the pressure on the 6 feet shutters which have been installed.

" Such long term remedies as are necessary are all being considered by Government. The long term remedies are the construction of a regulator with lift shutters combined with a road bridge and other things. The Government have spent over 5 lakhs on temporary repairs.

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" Sir, I may submit that when the anicut suffered the damage, not one ryot complained that he has not got his share of water for his lands. The lands were irrigated properly and there was a bumper harvest. Therefore the Government have done what all was necessary for protecting the interest of the ryots and as the report would show the Government were not at all remiss in the discharge of their duties. I have repeated these facts for the benefit of the hon. Members who might not have listened to me. This is the report I have to make about the Krishna anicut.''

SRI K. RAJAGOPALA RAO :—" అధ్యక్షా, ఇప్పుడు మంత్రిగారు ఇచ్చిన స్టేటుమెంటును బట్టి కృష్ణా నది ఆనకట్ట damage report లో వున్నటువంటి విషయాలనే చదివి వెల్లడిచేశారు. ఈ రిపోర్టు ప్రభుత్వం ప్రకటించిన తర్వాత పత్రికలు, ప్రజాసంస్థలు కొంతమంది ప్రముఖులు యీ రిపోర్టుపైన అభిప్రాయాలు వెల్లడించారు. ఈ damage జోగట్టా అంతయు తెలిసింది గనుక మంత్రిగారు యిప్పుడు ఏమిచేయు చున్నారో చెప్పితే మాకు అప్పుడే యీ debate వల్ల ప్రయోజనము కలుగుతుందని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను.''

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, what the hon. Member said and with which I entirely agree is this. When we said we would be content with a statement from the Hon. Minister, we were thinking that he would take the House into his confidence and tell us the steps taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the Committee since the tragedy occurred, namely, the maintenance of the anicut and restoring it to good working order. It is on these aspects that we required the Government to make a statement.''

MR. SPEAKER :—" We can have all that in the next sitting. Whatever the hon. Member wants he can have full information from the Hon. Minister at the next sitting.''

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" The object of our asking for a statement from the Hon. Minister was to know what the Government are doing with regard to the anicut and the recommendations made by the Committee. We do not want to go into the history of what happened prior to the tragedy. We want to know what they are going to do hereafter so that a recurrence may not take place.''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The Hon. Minister has given an assurance that everything possible is being done. ''

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I already told the House that long term remedies are being considered.''

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" అధ్యక్షా, debate ను గురించి నేను ఒక చిన్న suggestion చేస్తున్నాను. మంత్రిగారు మాకు ఒక symposium యిచ్చారు. కృష్ణా నది ఆనకట్ట damage ను గురించిన రిపోర్టు సభ్యులు చదువుకోలేరని, వారు చదివి దానిని ఒక shortened form లో చెప్పుతాను వినమన్నారు. నేను చెప్పు

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నది ఏమిటంటే, అసలు యిప్పుడు యీ రిపోర్టు వచ్చిన తర్వాత ప్రభుత్వం ఏమి చర్యలు తీసుకొంటున్నారో చెప్పితే చాలును. దానిమీద debate లేక discuss చేస్తాము. ''

4-50 p.m. * THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, all the immediate requirements are being attended to as the river is in floods now. Further damage has been stopped and damage to crops has been prevented. Therefore we are in a safe position. As soon as possible the repairs would be undertaken. Neither the estimates nor the details of the actual repair are now ready. Probably we may have something to say when we next meet."

III.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS—*cont.*

(2) SITUATION CREATED BY THE CYCLONE IN TANJORE AND TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICTS.

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

' *That the situation created in the Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli districts by the recent cyclone on the* 30*th November* 1952, *be taken into consideration.*'

Sir, soon after the debate on the food situation in the State, it is distressing to bring to the notice of this House the situation created in the districts of Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli by an act of God, the recent cyclone. The other day the Hon. Chief Minister made a detailed statement about the damage done to these two districts and I need not repeat them now. I would only supplement what information we received subsequent to that statement.

" In the Tiruchirappalli district, apart from the loss of human lives, loss of cattle and loss to paddy crops and garden produce the details of which have already been given, we further received information that about 75 minor irrigation tanks in Alangudi taluk, 5 irrigation tanks in Tiruchirappalli taluk and the Peruvalai channel in Lalgudi taluk have breached and that they have been closed. There has been partial damage to the Taluk offices at Lalgudi and Kollathur and the office of the District Welfare Officer in Tiruchirappalli besides a number of *chavadis* in Pudukkottai division. About 15,000 private buildings were damaged. The Collector has been touring the district and arranging for immediate relief wherever necessary. I may tell the House, Sir, that the Revenue Officers both in Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli are doing their best to alleviate the distress caused by the cyclone.

" Sir, a State Cyclone Relief Committee has been constituted and the Governor has appealed for public contributions. Contributions both in kind and in cash are being received from the generous public. The President of the Republic of India, the Prime Minister and our Governor have contributed handsome donations to the State Relief Fund. The Corporation of Madras has also contributed a large amount. Private merchants and others also